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**Title:**

Speech opening CIG's new sulphur dioxide plant at Torrensville

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, DON DUNSTAN, OPENING C.I.G.'s NEW SULPHUR DIOXIDE  
PLANT AT TORRENSVILLE.

26.3.76

Mr. Davidson, Your Worship the Mayor of Port Adelaide, Mr. Dalby, Mr. Buttfield, My Ministerial Colleague Mr. Hugh Hudson, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Thanks very much for asking me to open this new complex, which represents a major addition to the industrial capacity of South Australia, and in the case of the sulphur dioxide plant, a new facility for Australia.

I am always very pleased to come to ceremonies such as this, because one of the South Australian Government's highest priorities is the encouragement of industrial developments such as these two plants which provide additional employment and also provide extra services to industry and commerce.

The sulphur dioxide plant is particularly important, for it means that the many industries which use the gas will have an assured, local source of supply. Australian industries who do not have their own sulphur dioxide production facilities will no longer be reliant on overseas supplies, and our State has gained an important new resource.

The air separation plant will increase previous production fourfold and gives local industry a much more secure source of industrial gases, which are the bases of such a wide range of industrial processes.

The two plants are a \$3 million extension of CIG's large and established organisation in the State and the products which flow from here will be used in companies which contribute greatly to the economy of South Aust.

Industries as diverse as mining, food, winemaking, chemical manufacture and glass making will take sulphur dioxide gas from Torrens ville. With a capacity of almost 3,000 tonnes a year, I am sure this plant will not require extensions for quite some time.

Industrial facilities like this complex not only add to South Australia's manufacturing capacity, but provide important diversification of our industrial base. That is a major objective of our policies, and I am very pleased that in the last year a significant number of new industries and facilities were established in South Australia, with a total value of around \$105 million.

That is a sizeable addition to the State's economy, and the benefits of those new projects will not only go to the people directly employed in their construction or operation, but will pass to the entire community

through the provision of further, stable employment in new industries.

The Government is anxious to encourage industrial development which diversifies our economy. One of South Australia's problems is that while we have a very high percentage of employment in industry, for too long our industrial base has been very narrow. Motor vehicle manufacture and the whitegoods industry have been our two main employers, and these industries have been extremely sensitive to fluctuations in the domestic Australian economy and international trading conditions.

At times of economic downturn, the first response of most families is to defer major purchases, and motor cars and new refrigerators and washing machines are in that category.

My Government has aggressively followed a policy of reducing that dependence, and by incentive and example, bring new industries to the State.

Apart from the impressive amounts which have been invested in new plant and facilities because of that policy, the success of our efforts has been shown in the economic downturn of the past two years when the unemployment level in South Australia was consistently lower than almost every other State. If we had not spread our employment opportunities the effects of the decline in motor car and household appliance sales would have put us well towards the top.

The Government has been able to get these results by working closely with industry and commerce, and by offering financial and technical assistance far more generous than provided elsewhere.

The State Industries Assistance Corporation has made loans worth \$3.8 million in the last three years, and it has the power to provide other forms of assistance such as taking up equity capital and deferred interest loans.

As well, the Industries Development Committee has guaranteed loans worth almost \$16 million to industries needing assistance.

The most successful programme has been our use of the Housing Trust to build factories for companies on lease and lease-purchase arrangements. As a result, the Housing Trust has built factories worth \$40 million, and the jobs generated by those plants have been an important factor in the changing employment patterns.

The nature and extent of the Government's assistance to new and established industry is, despite our willingness to help, still not as widely realised as the Government would like.

We want to work with industry to give South Australians new jobs and secure jobs and to add to the quality of life of the whole community.

The Government believes the interests of South Australia can be best served by close and frank relations between the business community and Government.

Certainly South Australia will benefit greatly from CIG's excellent new facilities here at Torrensville. On behalf of the Government I congratulate the company for building such a technically advanced complex, and have great pleasure in declaring it open.

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